

Appl. No. 10/734,212
Amdt. Dated January 7, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An apparatus for treating water comprised of contaminants comprising:
 - (a) a contact zone;
 - (b) a separation zone having an aggregation zone above a filtration zone;
 - (c) a collection zone;
 - (d) an inlet port for receiving a feed of water into the contact zone;
 - (e) a passage between the top of the contact zone and the aggregation zone;
 - (f) a removal device adapted to move particles from the aggregation zone to the collection zone; and
 - (g) an immersed membrane filtration device located within the separation zone of the tank for withdrawing a filtered permeate.

2. (Original) A method of treating water having contaminants, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) introducing a feed of water to the inlet port of a contact zone;
 - (b) releasing bubbles into the contact zone;
 - (c) contacting at least a portion of the bubbles to at least a portion of the contaminants thereby forming bubble-contaminant complexes;
 - (d) flowing the bubble-contaminant complexes to an aggregation zone within a separation zone;

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(e) removing at least some of the bubble-contaminant complexes from the aggregation zone; and

(f) withdrawing a filtered permeate through an immersed membrane filtration module from a filtration zone within the separation zone.

3. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 having one or more immersed membrane filtration devices that substantially cover the cross-sectional area of the separation zone.

4. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of releasing bubbles into the contact zone further comprises steps of flowing a portion of the permeate withdrawn through the immersed membrane filtration modules into the contact zone after introducing a gas under pressure into the portion.

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